

**MINUTES
of the
Joint Meeting
of the
State Transportation Commission
and the
Michigan Aeronautics Commission**

Thursday, March 31, 2005
Bureau of Multi-Modal Transportation Services
2700 E. Airport Service Drive
Lansing, MI 48906
9:00 A.M.

STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Members Present:

Ted B. Wahby, Chairman
Linda Miller Atkinson, Vice Chair
James R. Rosendall, Commissioner
Maureen Miller Brosnan, Commissioner

Members Absent:

Robert Bender, Commissioner
Vincent J. Brennan, Commissioner

Also Present:

Frank Kelley, Commission Advisor
Jerry Jones, Commission Auditor

MICHIGAN AERONAUTICS COMMISSION

Members Present:

Sidney Adams, Jr., Chairman
Terry Everman, Vice Chair
Lowell E. Kraft, Commissioner
Capt. John Ort, Commissioner
Mindy Koch, Commissioner
Gloria J. Jeff, Commissioner

Members Absent:

Eric V. Smith, Commissioner
Brig. Gen. Ken Heaton, Commissioner

Also Present:

Rob Abent, MAC Director
Patrick Isom, Legal Counsel
Barbara Burris, Commission Analyst

A list of all others present is attached to the official minutes.

I. OPENING REMARKS/INTRODUCTIONS

The Joint Meeting of the State Transportation Commission (STC) and the Michigan Aeronautics Commission (MAC) was called to order by State Transportation Commission Chairman Ted Wahby at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 31, 2005.

Chairman Wahby opened the meeting with introductions of the two newly appointed STC members, Commissioners Maureen Brosnan and James Rosendall, and continued with introductions of himself and the remaining STC member seated at the head table, Commissioner Linda Miller Atkinson. He turned the floor over to Aeronautics Commission Chairman Sidney Adams for introductions of the Aeronautics Commission. The balance of those assembled at the head table commenced personal introductions, beginning with Pat Isom of the Attorney General's Office, followed by Commissioners Gloria Jeff, Vice Chairman Terry Everman, Commissioners Lowell Kraft, John Ort, and Mindy Koch, Aeronautics Commission Director Rob Abent, and Chairman Sidney Adams.

Chairman Adams noted the absence of Commissioners Smith and Heaton, as well as that of Commissioner Collins, who was said to be en route.

Turning to the agenda, Chairman Wahby called on the first presenter, MDOT Director Gloria Jeff.

II. PRESENTATIONS

A. Integrated Transportation

With the aid of slides, Director Jeff briefed the two Commissions on the concept of Integrated Transportation, highlighting dates and events germane to the evolution of the Michigan Department of Transportation. Her PowerPoint presentation is paraphrased as follows:

The 1950s (World War II – Deregulation Era):

Several notable watershed events occurred in the 1950s: the establishment of the Highway Trust Fund and construction of the interstate. The 1950s also brought about the introduction of jet aircraft for transporting passengers across the domestic U.S., an expansion of interstate trucking, introduction of containerization, in both the maritime and rail industry, and major improvements to the St. Lawrence Seaway to enhance the movement of goods by sea.

The 1960s:

In the 1960s, as privately owned transit operators began to abandon a service deemed no longer profitable, the federal government for the first time entered into the business of

providing funding for public transportation.

The 1970s:

In the '70s, the focus shifted from how well the transportation system could be constructed to how the transportation system interacted with the way people live and use the natural resources available to them in conjunction with new environmental laws. The massive deregulation of the air, rail and trucking industry, led to expansion of those industries and corrective actions to bring them more in line with available markets. Additionally, a collapse of the Penn Central Railroad triggered the creation of Amtrak and Conrail and an increase in funding for transit operations and introduction of eligibility for nonmotorized transportation.

The 1990s:

The 1990s marked the completion of the interstate system and recognition of globalization of trade, which shifted the emphasis to timing and reliability. The 1990s also marked the establishment of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) and propelled a new direction in transportation with a focus not just on the individual modes of transportation but on integration; the establishment of new requirements as well as new funding opportunities for improvements in the areas of international borders; a recognition of multi-state corridors; and the introduction of intelligent transportation systems.

The 2000s:

Upon entering the 21st century, the focus shifted to operations, recognizing that operation isn't simply about how quickly traffic moves but understanding what is needed from the transportation system for the movement of goods in terms of both reliability and access. Safety and security continues to be a major emphasis for the department. Since 9/11, there has been an even greater focus on how to protect our homeland and our citizens and how to protect our transportation system and still maintain the quality of life we have become accustomed to.

The Director cited a recent conference she attended which focused on vehicle-infrastructure integration—how to take the technology that the automobile manufacturers and telecommunications companies are developing and integrate that into the transportation infrastructure to provide real time information not only on traffic conditions but improved operations, with emphasis on safety, such as run-off-the-road accidents. The department will continue to increase partnerships with the industry and continue to increase outreach and engagement of stakeholders. The 21st century requires a focus on an integrated transportation system in ways not done previously. The department will continue its focus on bringing together the various modalities to function in an effective fashion.

She noted that recently MDOT's Vision Statement had been updated to include the articulation of integration as part of the department's mission of "providing the highest quality *integrated* transportation services for economic benefit and improved quality of life." Discussions on integrated transportation necessarily involve the question, how do we become an integrated transportation agency? She indicated that this is accomplished by incorporating the four I's: Integration, Inclusiveness, Intelligence (both in terms of technologies and the nature of people involved), and International (scope).

The department will continue to anticipate and incorporate needs while applying the most advanced technology, consistent with the Governor's initiative known as "Jobs Today, Jobs Tomorrow," and coordinate all aspects of transportation with all modalities.

The department will continue to focus on achieving a seamless sequence movement of both people and goods as well as protecting and encouraging public health. It will continue to focus on the impacts of transportation? how to reduce the negative impacts to air and water quality and how to adapt government regulations? while maintaining efforts to streamline the projects and programs being undertaken.

She noted the many challenges ahead: narrowly interpreted missions; a lack of trust; standard practice; leadership/skills; and funding. Integrated transportation, she emphasized, is not just a concept. MDOT will continue to move forward by training its work force to solve transportation movement issues, doing so in a way that will enhance the economic viability of the State of Michigan and the quality of life of Michigan's citizens.

The Director entertained questions from the Commissioners.

To a query from Commissioner Atkinson on how the department plans to meet the challenge of preserving the state's existing assets, the Director expounded on the department's *preserve first* program, which takes into account the goals of the Transportation Commission in directing the department to spend 90 percent of its funding on preservation-related activities. Through the redistribution of roughly \$600 million over a five-year period, the department will be able to reach a goal of having 90 percent of the roads in good shape by 2007. She described this as an intelligent investment in infrastructure.

Commissioner Kraft queried regarding the GPS systems installed by the department around the state to enhance the accuracy of surveying necessary for highways and whether it would be possible to collaborate usage with the FAA for pilots.

The Director responded that the department constantly explores ways to improve efficiency; that this would be a primary example of transportation integration.

Chairman Wahby restated the importance of preserving the state's assets. He thanked the Director for an informative report. He called on Janet Foran and Therese Cody of the MDOT Centennial Committee to speak on the 100-year celebration of the Department of Transportation.

B. MDOT Centennial Committee

Janet Foran of the Office of Communications briefed the two Commissions on plans to commemorate the department's 100-year anniversary.

A centennial team of volunteers has been busy planning activities and products to share with the public and MDOT employees over the course of the year to commemorate the department's 100th birthday. All activities and products are funded by donation, and no state funds will be used for activities connected with the celebration.

The department kicked off its centennial celebration in January with a parade (held during a snow storm), followed by a second kickoff from the Governor at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit. Additional activities are planned to coincide with the annual Mackinac Bridge Walk as well as an International Bridge Walk in June. MDOT's official birthday is July 1st. Staffs at all region offices and TSCs are encouraged to show a *Team MDOT* spirit and become involved in some type of centennial-related activity.

Ms. Foran distributed MDOT centennial posters to the Commissioners featuring photos and facts about the department's 100 years. In addition to the poster, the state transportation map, which is due out in April, will feature a centennial theme. Other items commemorating this event include pins and a magazine titled *Michigan History*. All 4th grade students in the state will receive a children's version of the magazine. MDOT employees are encouraged to use their 8 hours of school leave to volunteer at four modules that will be set up to share information on the department and its functions.

The department will also sponsor a "buy a centennial road sign" program. Signs will be available for purchase by MDOT employees and the public.

Upcoming events include a "Transportation Day," scheduled for Saturday, May 14, at the Michigan Historical Center in Lansing for MDOT employees and retirees. Exhibits at the center will include a "touch a truck display" and a parade. She invited all to participate in this celebration. She deferred to Ms. Cody.

Therese Cody, Bureau of Multi-Modal Transportation Services, invited all in the attendance to celebrate MDOT's 100th year anniversary. She listed various attractions that will be on display at the Michigan Historical Center in addition to the "touch a truck" display, such as vehicles/equipment currently and formerly used by the department as well as vehicles from other modes of transportation. This event is specifically geared

toward MDOT employees and their families and is open to both former and present commissioners. Horatio "Good Roads" Earle, aka MDOT retiree Mike Irwine, will talk about the *good roads movement* and the changes that led to the creation of MDOT. Ms. Cody described a variety of other activities scheduled for May 14, which has been designated as "employee appreciation day." Lunch will be provided. She again invited all present to take part in the celebration.

Upon query from Commissioner Adams, Ms. Foran indicated that staffs of the department are still working on how to exhibit the aeronautics aspect of transportation.

MAC Director Rob Abent interjected that discussions are currently underway with the Yankee Air Museum regarding the possibility of a static display of a historic B-17 bomber.

Chairman Wahby commended the committee on a very aggressive program.

At this juncture, Ms. Foran and Ms. Cody shared a video tape with those in attendance chronicling MDOT's 100 years, as narrated by Horatio "Good Roads" Earle.

Copies of the tape are available upon request.

Chairman Wahby praised the members of the Centennial Committee on producing an excellent historical view of transportation in Michigan.

The Chairman opened the floor to comments from the public.

There being no requests for comments from the audience, STC Chairman Wahby thanked the members of the Aeronautics Commission for hosting the joint meeting and declared it adjourned.

At approximately 10:00 a.m., the joint meeting of the State Transportation Commission and the Aeronautics Commission adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara A. Burris
Michigan Aeronautics Commission

Frank E. Kelley
Commission Advisor
for State Transportation Commission
Ted B. Wahby, Chairman